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## **„Odwilż” w polsko-włoskich stosunkach kulturalnych i naukowych w latach 1955-1958**

### **A “thaw” in Polish-Italian cultural and scientific relations in the years 1955-1958**

#### **SUMMARY**

The outline is based mainly on source materials earlier unused by researchers, stored in central archives in Warsaw: Archives of New Records (units of the Committee of Cultural Co-operation with Abroad of the Ministry of Higher Education) and the Archives of the Foreign Ministry, as well as in Rome: Ministero degli Affari Esteri. The outline presents how the ease in tension in East-West relations, resulted from the political “thaw” in the Soviet Union, influenced renewing cultural and scientific relations between Poland and Italy, broken before because of Cold War confrontation.

Important elements of this process were: invitations to perform lectures for prominent Polish scientists, mathematicians, Professors: Kazimierz Kuratowski and Waław Sierpiński and physicist – Prof. Leopold Infeld (1955). At the end of 1955 Prof. Kazimierz Wyka went to Italy and established contacts with Italian Slavists and specialists in Polish studies. In fine arts, the exhibition of Canaletto and Aleksander Gierymski, organized in Venice in September that year, assumed paramount importance. After a long break delegations of Polish musicians and architects went to Italy. First delegations of Italian Slavists arrived in Poland. An important effect of this revival in mutual relations was activation of the Station of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Rome and its library, the merit of its head since 1956, Prof. Bronisław Biliński.

Roman Station started organising lectures of distinguished Polish scientists already in 1957, issued its own publishing series, considerably increased its library. Polish scientists, mainly lawyers and philologists, went on training and received grants in Italy. Italian officials, as opposed to the French, did not attach much importance to cultural and scientific relations with Poland. That is why until the end of the analysed period no convention was signed, although the Polish side was quite concerned about.

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